GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1352
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2000
BAN ON PRAWN CULTIVATION IN COASTAL AREAS
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court had delivered its judgement regarding ban on prawn cultivation in the coastal areas keeping with a view to environment problem;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the farmers have not complied the same till now and prawn cultivation in coastal areas is continuing;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to save the environment on the verdict of the Supreme Court ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The salient features of the Supreme Court`s judgement dated 11-12-1996 on the Writ Petition No. 561/1994 relating to setting up of shrimp aquaculture farms in coastal areas are as follows :

(i) No shrimp culture pond can be constructed within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ), except traditional and improved traditional types of ponds.

(ii) Shrimp culture ponds other than the traditional and improved traditional types set up within the CRZ shall be demolished.

(iii) An Authority shall be constituted under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to deal with the situation created by the shrimp culture industry.

(iv) Shrimp ponds outside CRZ should be set up with prior approval of the Authority to be constituted by the Government.

(v) The Authority so constituted by the Central Government shall implement the precautionary principle and polluter pays principle.
(c)&(d) A Review Petition was filed by the Ministry of Agriculture and others seeking review of the Supreme Court`s judgement. The Supreme Court vide its interim order dated March 21,1997 has granted stay on implementation of the judgement relating to demolition of shrimp ponds. Subsequently the Court vide its order dated 31st October, 2000 has admitted the Review Petition and currently the matter is subjudice.
(e) In accordance with the directives of the Supreme Court the Aquaculture Authority has been set up to regulate shrimp farming activities in coastal areas. The Authority has evolved guidelines for adopting improved technology for increasing production and productivity in traditional and improved traditional systems of shrimp farming in an eco-friendly manner. Shrimp farming activities which may cause environmental degradation are not allowed by the Authority.